

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02
PA-01 PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 NRC-05 /140 W
-----004688 170249Z /75

R 162220Z SEP 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5427

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 3082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM UN

SUBJECT: AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT
CONFERENCE

REF: USUN 2941

1. SUMMARY: THE UN AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DIS-
ARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC) AT ITS SEPTEMBER 12-16 MEETING,
PROVIDED NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR THE USSR AND EAST EUROPEAN
STATES TO RENEW THEIR CALL FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.
THE COMMITTEE REPORT, WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE 32ND UNGA,
NOTES THE DIFFERING VIEWS OF THE FIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES
ON THE WDC, WHICH ARE ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED, FROM PREVIOUS
YEARS. THE SOVIET UNION ATTACHES "EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE" TO THE
QUESTION OF CONVENING A WDC; FRANCE ALSO SUPPORTS IT,
WHILE THE UK, THE US, AND CHINA OPPOSE IT, INDICATING VARIOUS
CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE FULFILLED BEFORE IT WOULD BE
POSSIBLE TO CONVENE THE CONFERENCE. (TEXTS OF THESE
STATEMENTS ARE TRANSMITTED PARA 5 BELOW))
END SUMMARY.

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2. IRAN, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WDC AD HOC COMMITTEE, HAS
KEPT CHINA AND THE US (WHICH DO NOT ATTEND) INFORMED OF
THE WDC AD HOC COMMITTEE'S SEPTEMBER 12-16 DELIBERATIONS.
ACCORDING TO IRANIAN POLCOUNSELLOR, MAJOR POINT OF CONTEN-
TION AT THIS SESSION HAS BEEN SOVIET EFFORT TO ATTACH, AS
AN ANNEX TO THE REPORT, THE TEXTS OF MEMBER STATE' VIEWS

REGARDING A WDC MADE DURING THE 31ST UNGA, IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR VIEWS ON THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT (SSOD) AND DURING THE THREE SESSIONS OF THE SSOD PREPCOM. ITALY, REPRESENTING THE WESTERN STATES IN THE WORKING GROUP, RESISTED THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD HAVE GIVEN UNDUE EMPHASIS TO THE VIEWS OF THOSE FAVORING A WDC. THOSE WHO OPPOSE A WDC HAVE NOT GENERALLY ADDRESSED THEMSELVES TO THIS ISSUE. THE COMPROMISE REACHED PROVIDES FOR THE ANNEX TO CONTAIN THE SUMMARY RECORDS OF THE MEETING AND A FOOTNOTE QUOTING THE TEXT OF PARA 15 IN LAST YEAR'S REPORT WHICH NOTES THE "UNIQUE FEATURE" OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE AS THE ONLY FORUM IN CONTACT WITH THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ON THE WDC ISSUE.

3. THE CONCLUSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S REPORT IS AS FOLLOWS:

IN CONSIDERING THE ADVISABILITY OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE UNDER AN APPROPRIATE MANDATE, IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONTENT OF THE PRESENT AND PREVIOUS REPORTS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY WISH TO BEAR IN MIND THE RECOMMENDATION MADE TO IT BY THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL SESSION DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT (SEE PARA 10 REFTEL)--I.E., TO HAVE THE COMMITTEE SUBMIT A SPECIAL REPORT TO THE SSOD ON ITS WORK AND DELIBERATIONS.

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4. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THESE EFFORTS AT THE SSOD PREPCOMS AND IN THE WDC AD HOC COMMITTEE THAT THE SOVIETS, SUPPORTED BY THE EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP, INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PUSH HARD FOR UN ENDORSEMENT OF A WDC. THEIR OBJECTIVE NOW IS TO HAVE NEXT SPRING'S SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT PROPOSE SPECIFIC DATES FOR CONVENING A WDC AND ALSO ESTABLISH A PREPCOM TO DEAL WITH ITS ORGANIZATION AND SUBSTANCE. WE ANTICIPATE A PROTRACTED AND DIFFICULT DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT IN THE SSOD PREPCOMS NEXT JANUARY AND APRIL AND AT THE SPECIAL SESSION.

5. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF THE VIEWS OF THE FIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. QUOTE

CHINA : THE POSITION OF CHINA HAS NOT CHANGED. ACCORDING TO THAT POSITION A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE CAN ONLY BE CONVENED IF CERTAIN PREREQUISITES FOR THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO GENUINE DISARMAMENT ARE MET. THE CONVENING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE, OF PREPARATION FOR SUCH A CONFERENCE, COULD ONLY BE ACCEPTABLE IF ALL THE NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES, IN PARTICULAR THE TWO NUCLEAR-WEAPON POWERS, WOULD UNDERTAKE AN OBLIGATION: (A) NOT TO BE THE FIRST TO

USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST THE NON-NUCLEAR-
WEAPON STATES; AND (B) TO END ALL FORMS OF MILITARY PRESENCE
ON THE TERRITORY OF OTHER COUNTRIES BY THOSE CONCERNED. IF
SUCH PRE-CONDITIONS ARE MET, A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE CAN BE
CONVENED WITH A CLEAR AIM, NAMELY, TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF COMPLE
TE
PROHIBITION AND THOROUGH DESTRUCTION OF ALL NUCLEAR
WEAPONS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 3082

FRANCE: THE HOLDING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT, THE
MAIN OBJECTIVES OF WHICH WOULD BE TO DEFINE THE GENERAL
PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE IN THE MATTER OF DISARMAMENT,
TO DETERMINE THE MAIN FOCUSES OF EFFORTS IN THAT REGARD AND
TO ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE EXISTING NEGOTIATING
MACHINERY, DOES NOT IN ANY WAY LESSEN INTEREST OF
FRANCE IN THE CONVENING OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. IT
IS HOPED THAT THE NECESSARY PREREQUISITES FOR SUCH A GATHERING-
IN PARTICULAR, ENDORSEMENT BY ALL THE NUCLEAR POWERS-CAN BE
MET IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

SOVIET UNION: THE U.S.S.R. ATTACHES EXCEPTIONAL IMPORTANCE
TO THE QUESTION OF CONVENING THE WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE,
AT WHICH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, WITHOUT EXCEPTION ,
AND ON AN EQUAL BASIS, COULD STATE AND COMPARE THEIR
VIEWS ON THE WHOLE RANGE OF DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS. IF
PROPERLY ORGANIZED AND WITH WORKING BODIES AVAILABLE TO ENSURE
A THOROUGH PREPARATION AND PRACTICAL AGREEMENT IN

TAKING APPROPRIATE DECISIONS WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE
INTERESTS OF ALL STATES, A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE
COULD WORK OUT SPECIFIC, EFFECTIVE MEASURES AIMED AT
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CURBING THE ARMS RACE AND THUS ACHIEVING A BREAKTHROUGH
IN SOLVING THE PROBLEM OF DISARMAMENT. THE AD HOC COMMITTEE
ON THE WDC COULD RECOMMEND TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE LATTER
ENTRUST IT TO PREPARE A REPORT FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEVOTED TO DISARMAMENT ON THE ITEM
OF CONVOCAION OF WDC IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT RESOLUTION 31/190.
U.K. : THERE IS NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION OF THE U.K. WHICH
HAS BEEN EXPRESSED ON MANY OCCASIONS IN THE PAST. IN
THE VIEW OF THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MILI-
TARILY SIGNIFICANT STATES, INCLUDING ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
STATES, REMAINS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN CONVENING A WORLD
DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE.

U.S.: THE U.S. POSITION HAS NOT CHANGED. ACCORDING TO THAT
POSITION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COULD NOTE BY CONSENSUS THAT A
WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE COULD PLAY A ROLE IN THE DIS-
ARMAMENT PROCESS AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.
HOWEVER, UNDER CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS NOT THE LACK OF A
SUITABLE FORUM, BUT THE LACK OF POLITICAL AGREEMENT THAT
CONSTITUTES THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO PROGRESS IN DISARMAMENT.
A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO OVERCOME
THIS LACK OF AGREEMENT AND THUS WOULD MORE PROBABLY HINDER,
RATHER THAN ASSIST, EFFORTS TO REACH CONCRETE ARMS CONTROL
AGREEMENTS. IT, THEREFORE, WOULD BE PREMATURE AT THIS TIME
TO CONVENE, TO SET A DATE FOR OR TO START PREPARATIONS
FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. UNQUOTE
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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